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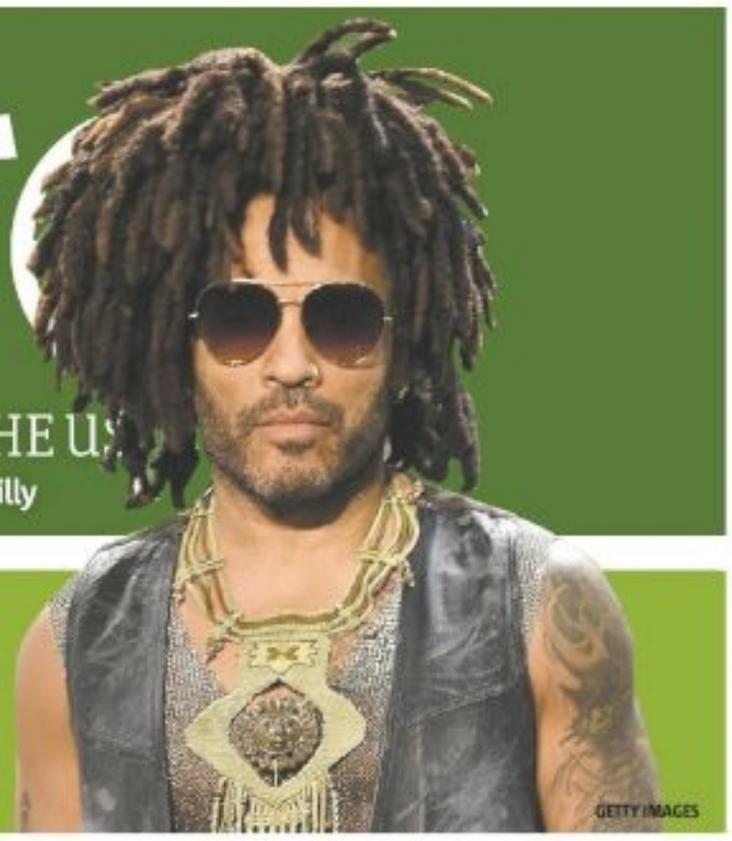

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Metro spoke with Philadelphia's director of disease control, who says this month's public-health emergency to address the city's hepatitis A outbreak — nearly 200 cases this year, when the average is six — could extend to December. 4

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TOMMY AND ME

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Trump eyes tax cuts while denying US recession looms

President admitted Tuesday to looking at stimulus options but said U.S. still "No. 1."

REUTERS

Even as they reject talk of a looming recession, President Donald Trump and his advisers are examining ways to provide a boost to the U.S. economy should it be deemed necessary, officials said.

"We're very far from recession," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office, echoing a theme from him and his team that the fundamentals of the U.S. economy are strong.

But aware of how dangerous a recession could be to his re-election prospects in 2020, Trump has been looking at options for a stimulus behind the scenes.

Trump and his advisers have discussed the possibility of a payroll tax cut, which would give workers an immediate boost to spending but would add to U.S. deficit spending.

Trump said on Tuesday another option he is thinking about is indexing capital gains, which would provide a tax cut on profits from selling assets such as stocks, but that he was not talking about doing anything imminently.

The payroll tax cut option emerged from a meeting Trump had with his economic team on Monday. It was not viewed seriously, given it would be hard to get through the U.S. Congress, an administration official said.

Millions of U.S. workers pay payroll taxes on their earnings to finance the Medicare health insurance program for the elderly and Social Security, which provides income payments for retirees.

Some conservatives, such as anti-tax crusader Grover Norquist, believe Trump has the regulatory authority to add an inflation adjustment to the calculation of capital gains taxes.

Such a step would likely be seen by Democrats as an attempt to circumvent the authority of the U.S. Congress and prompt a court fight.

> **"I'm not talking about doing anything at this moment, but indexing is something that a lot of people have liked for a long time. And it's something that would be very easy to do."**
> President Trump

Trump's senior economic adviser Larry Kudlow has been arguing behind the scenes that the United States should return to taxpayers the tariff money collected by higher tariffs on Chinese imports, an official said.

Republican Sen. Rick Scott of Florida has offered legislation on this point.

There has been no clarity on how such a move would be carried out since China does not pay tariffs directly to the U.S. Treasury. The tariffs are paid by American companies when Chinese products enter the United States.

Trade tensions with China have stoked concerns that the U.S. economy is heading for a downturn, which could dampen Trump's prospects for re-election in 2020.

Trump said he would not need the approval of Congress to link the tax on profits from asset sales, known as capital gains, to inflation. According to tax code experts, investors would pay far less capital gains tax under an inflation index.

"I'm not talking about doing anything at this moment, but indexing is something that a lot of people have liked for a long time. And it's something that would be very easy to do," he said. "It is something I am certainly thinking about." REUTERS

'James Bond No. 25' gets official title: 'No Time to Die'

2 The new James Bond film finally has a title — "No Time to Die" — and an April 2020 release date, producers announced on Tuesday. "Daniel Craig returns as James Bond, 007 in... NO TIME TO DIE. Out in the UK on 3 April 2020 and 8 April 2020 in the US," according to a post on the official 007 Twitter account. Filming for the new movie, previously known only as "Bond 25," got underway in Jamaica in April, when producers announced that Oscar winner Rami Malek will play the villain in the latest entry in the lucrative British spy franchise. Craig confirmed in 2017 that he would return for a fifth time as 007. The Bond franchise is one of the movie world's most lucrative, with 2015's "Spectre" raking in $880 million at the box office worldwide and "Skyfall" (2012) grossing $1 billion globally. REUTERS

Walmart sues Tesla over solar panel fires at stores

3 Walmart Inc. sued Tesla Inc., saying solar panels supplied by the electric-car maker were responsible for fires at about seven of its stores, according to a lawsuit filed in a New York court on Tuesday. The fires destroyed significant amounts of store merchandise and required substantial repairs, totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket losses, Walmart said in the lawsuit. As of November 2018, no fewer than seven Walmart stores had experienced fires due to Tesla's solar systems, according to the lawsuit. "This is a breach of contract action arising from years of gross negligence and failure to live up to industry standards by Tesla with respect to solar panels that Tesla designed, installed and promised to maintain safely on the roofs of hundreds of Walmart stores," Walmart said in the court filing. REUTERS

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If you need assistance getting the hepatitis A vaccine, contact the health department at 215-685-6741.

No end in sight for Philly Hep A emergency

Number of reported cases this year nearing 200; annual average is six.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

Philadelphia's hepatitis A outbreak has risen to nearly 200 cases, as a city health official said the recently declared public-health emergency could last for months.

The number of confirmed cases this year stood at 196 as of last Friday, said Dr. Steven Alles, Philadelphia's director of disease control. Typically, the city sees two to six cases per year. Several more possible cases are being investigated.

There is not one particular hot spot of infection in Philly. "We are seeing cases presented from all over the city," Alles told Metro. Most of the cases are in people who report using drugs or being homeless. But in a third of the infections, risk factors are unknown.

The city's disease control department has targeted high-risk groups. Staffers maintain a presence in McPherson Square and Prevention Point and have administered 2,500 hepatitis A vaccinations. "But it is not enough," said Alles.

After rising sharply each month this year, the number of reported cases has stabilized — 21 in May, 53 in June, 83 in July, with a similar number expected for August. "It's leveling off at a new, very high rate," said Alles. "We're not anywhere near lifting this emergency declaration, because cases continue to be reported. This is going to continue for weeks, possibly months. I'd estimate, if we're lucky, December."

Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by a virus. It is most often transmitted through sex or contact with an infected person's blood or feces. The disease can also spread when food-service workers don't adequately wash their hands after using the restroom.

The city declared the public-health emergency on Aug. 1. It enabled officials to request more funding from the state and federal governments for vaccines and outreach, such as boosting vaccine stockpiles in emergency departments and paying for contract nurses to administer vaccinations.

"Primarily what we're hoping to get out of the declaration is a call to action, primarily among the health-care community, to raise awareness of the emerging situation and to expand their ability to identify cases and report them," said Alles. "But more importantly, to ramp up providing vaccines to those most at risk."

> **"We must do everything in our power to prevent hepatitis A from further spreading across the commonwealth."**
> Gov. Tom Wolf

On Monday, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf allotted $50,000 to fund additional vaccines and outreach efforts across the state. Most of the cases have been reported in Philadelphia and Bucks County. "We must do everything in our power to prevent hepatitis A from further spreading across the commonwealth," he said in a statement.

Philadelphia is not alone in dealing with a surge in hepatitis A. Twenty-nine states are experiencing outbreaks. Health officials fear the opioid crisis might be driving the outbreak, since the disease can be spread through needles.

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Philadelphia Energy Solutions layoffs accelerate as Philly refinery closes

Half of workforce dismissed; sources say no severance.

The Philadelphia Energy Solutions oil refinery is shown following a recent fire that caused significant damage, in Philadelphia. REUTERS

Refinery Philadelphia Energy Solutions is laying off the majority of its unionized workforce on Tuesday and Wednesday, the union's president said, ahead of an initial layoff deadline.

PES began dismissing a small number of union workers last Thursday, before an earlier-stated Aug. 25 termination date, as the company idles its fire-damaged refinery after filing for bankruptcy.

Union employees are expected to be paid through Aug. 25, but the company has so far not offered severance pay or continued health benefits, sources have said.

"I'm concerned about the lack of benefits, and I'm concerned that a whole culture is being wiped out at this refinery," said Ryan O'Callaghan, head of the refinery union. "It's a 24-7 operation and people spend most of their lives working in the refinery."

Roughly 280 of the facility's 640 steelworkers were dismissed on Tuesday, said O'Callaghan, who works as an operator at the plant.

O'Callaghan and a team of negotiators are currently bargaining with PES to retain a crew of union workers trained to run the plant's wastewater system and conduct other work to safeguard the site while it is closed.

An 80-member "caretaker force" at the PES refinery for up to 18 months was being considered, a source familiar with the company's plans said. However, it was not clear whether they would be union members.

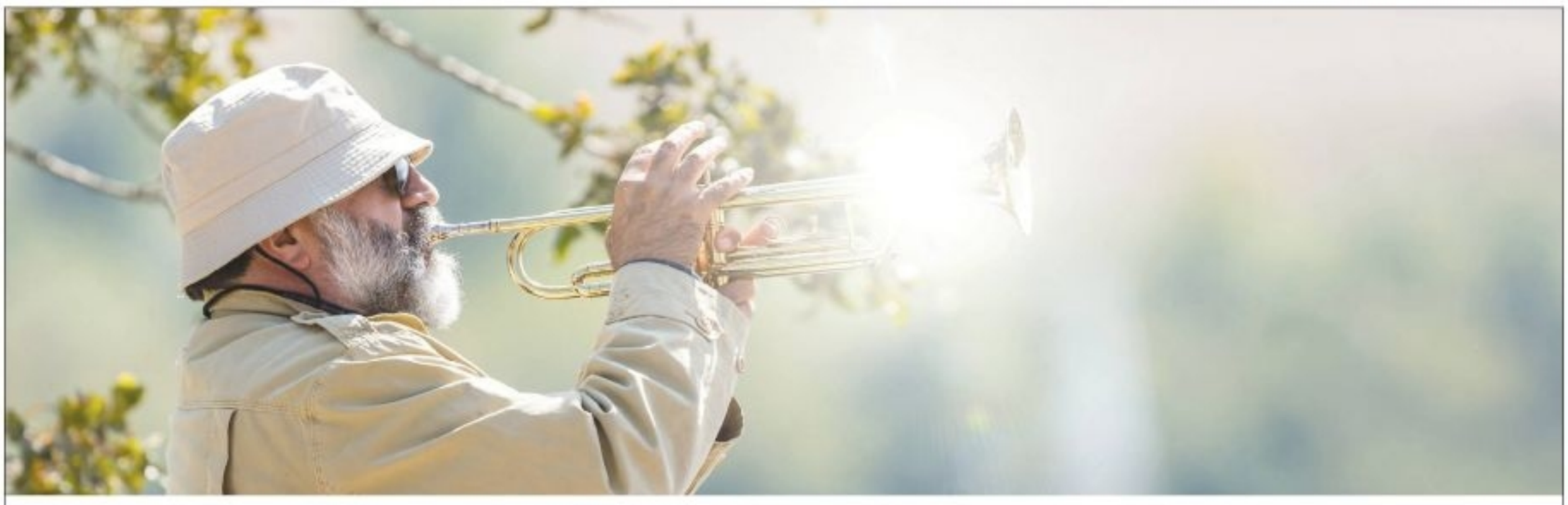
PES was not immediately available for comment.

The company has said it hopes to sell the plant to a buyer that would restart it, but it has not said whether it is in talks with any prospective buyers.

PES entered Chapter 11 bankruptcy on July 21, a month after a fire at the 335,000-barrel-per-day plant destroyed an alkylation unit used in the production of gasoline. The company had emerged from a previous bankruptcy last year.

PES initially said it would dismiss union and non-union employees by mid-July following the fire, but it later extended the employment of the plant's union workers.

The refinery's last crude unit was shut late last month. REUTERS



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'Dozen' states to join Justice Department in probe of Big Tech

Group likely to review Google, Facebook, Amazon, Apple.

Makan Delrahim, Assistant AG of the Justice Dept.'s Antitrust Division. REUTERS

The U.S. Justice Department is working with a group of more than a dozen state attorneys general as it investigates the market power of major technology companies, the department's antitrust chief, Makan Delrahim, said on Tuesday.

Delrahim said at a tech conference the government is studying acquisitions by major tech companies that were previously approved as part of a broad antitrust review announced in July of major tech firms with significant market power.

"Those are some of the questions that are being raised ... whether those were nascent competitors that may or may not have been wise to approve," Delrahim said. "Whether the intention of the incumbent was to purchase some of those competitors, I don't know. I'm not privy to the facts of each of those investigations."

On July 23, the Justice Department said it was opening a broad investigation into whether major digital technology firms engaged in anticompetitive practices, including concerns raised about "search, social media, and some retail services online."

That was an apparent reference to Alphabet Inc.'s Google, Amazon.com Inc. and Facebook Inc., and potentially Apple Inc.

More than a dozen states are expected to announce in the coming weeks they are launching a formal probe, a person briefed on the matter told Reuters.

"I think it's safe to say more than a dozen or so state attorneys general that have expressed an interest in the subject matter," Delrahim said.

In July, eight state attorneys general met with U.S. Attorney General William Barr to discuss the effect of big tech companies on competition, and various antitrust actions.

The New York Attorney General's office said on Monday it is continuing to "engage in bipartisan conversations about the unchecked power of large tech companies." North Carolina's attorney general, Josh Stein, is also "participating in bipartisan conversations about this issue," his office said.

The department is looking not only at price effects, but also innovation and quality, and the next steps in its broad antitrust review would be seeking documents and other information and could include some compulsory requests, Delrahim said.

After the July announcement the companies under investigation "immediately reached out to work with us in a cooperative manner to provide information that we need as far as the investigation," Delrahim added.

The Federal Trade Commission in June told Facebook it had opened an antitrust investigation. Last month, the FTC resolved a separate privacy probe into Facebook's practices after the company agreed to pay a $5 billion penalty.

REUTERS

BRIEF

DOJ: American Airlines to pay $22M fine for false mail times

American Airlines Group Inc., the largest U.S. airline, will pay $22.1 million to settle claims it falsely reported the times it transferred possession of U.S. mail to foreign postal administrations or other intended recipients, the U.S. Justice Department said on Tuesday.

The United States Postal Service contracted with American to take possession of receptacles of U.S. mail at six locations and then deliver it to numerous international and domestic destinations. The settlement resolves claims American Airlines falsely reported the times it transferred possession of the mail. American did not immediately comment Tuesday.

"We expect companies doing business with the government to comply with their contractual obligations," said Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt, who heads the department's civil division. "The Department of Justice vigorously pursues all manner of fraudulent conduct that undermines the benefits that the government has bargained for."

American said in a statement it was pleased it had reached a settlement.

"The allegations focused on conduct that was remedied years ago. We have invested in new equipment and procedures to ensure we are in full compliance with our commitments," the statement said. It added that "the U.S. Postal Service is an important customer for American, and we are glad to have corrected these procedures and put this matter behind us."

American said in a securities filing the Justice Department in April 2015 notified the airline it was investigating American's 2009 and 2011 contracts with the USPS for moving international air mail.

The contract required American to take possession of mail at U.S. locations or at various Department of Defense and State Department locations abroad, and then deliver that mail to numerous international and domestic destinations. REUTERS

REUTERS

Italy: 100 Migrants disembark rescue ship after 19-day standoff

Nearly one hundred migrants who had been stranded on the Open Arms rescue ship off the coast of Lampedusa disembarked on the Italian island on Tuesday night, ending a prolonged standoff between the Spanish charity operating the boat and the government in Rome.

The migrants, mainly from Africa, were removed from the boat after an Italian prosecutor ordered the seizure of the ship and the evacuation of the people on board.

The ship docked at Lampedusa's harbor just after 11:30 p.m. local time on Tuesday.

The Open Arms ship, run by a Spanish charity of the same name, had rescued the migrants heading for Europe off the Libyan coast. But after Italy refused to let it dock, the ship had been stranded at sea for nearly three weeks, with the charity saying that the migrants were distressed and urgently needed to find shelter.

Open Arms' director and founder, Oscar Camps, confirmed earlier on Twitter that the ship would be seized temporarily, adding it was "a cost that Open Arms assumes to ensure that people onboard can be served."

"We consider it essential to prioritize the migrants' health and safety in this humanitarian emergency," he said.

Spain sent a naval vessel on Tuesday afternoon to rescue the migrants and take them to Mallorca after some of them jumped overboard.

But the Spanish navy was only due to reach Lampedusa in three days and Open Arms repeatedly said that the situation on board was desperate and some migrants were suicidal.

> **"We consider it essential to prioritize the migrants' health and safety in this humanitarian emergency."**
>
> Oscar Camps, director and founder, Open Arms

The passengers were sleeping jammed together on deck and sharing two toilets.

After the charity said nine had tried to swim ashore, Reuters footage showed another five people jump, although it was not immediately clear if some were lifeguards.

Italy has taken a tough line on migrant entry, saying it has borne too much responsibility for handling African migration to Europe. Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has said the charity-run ships have become "taxis" for people smugglers.

"NO LONGER THE REFUGEE CAMP OF EUROPE"

Dozens of migrants have been taken ashore since the ship entered Italian waters because they were said to be minors or ill.

Salvini suggested on Tuesday that the charity was exaggerating the problems onboard. Of eight migrants taken ashore on Monday night for urgent medical attention, he said, only two had health problems.

"Spanish NGO, Spanish ship, Spanish port: The coherence and strength of Italy has paid off. We are no longer the refugee camp of Europe," he said in a statement.

The standoff has fueled Salvini's campaign against migrant boats from Africa, and comes as he is trying to force Italy into snap elections. Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced his resignation on Tuesday, accusing Salvini of sinking the ruling coalition for personal and political gain.

Spain and five other European Union nations have offered to take the migrants. The details of the offers from Spain, France, Germany, Romania, Portugal and Luxembourg have yet to be finalized. REUTERS

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Metro remembers David Berman: 1967 - 2019

The highly influential musician and poet of Silver Jews and Purple Mountains passed away this month.

JAMES CASE
letters@metro.us

SILVER JEWS

David Berman, the poet laureate of American songwriting, was making his comeback. The wry observer of the ironies and beguiling nature of contemporary American life stopped releasing music in 2009, and retired his musical project, The Silver Jews, and a vacuum of literate, thoughtful, funny songwriting was created. This void was filled by many, mostly transparent, imitators.

But now, it's 2019. Strange things have happening in many facets of politics and culture. But among these events, there had been tidings. Among them was that Berman announced that he would be returning to music with a new moniker — Purple Mountains — and releasing an eponymous record in late July. A tour was to follow in early August.

We reached out to his label and interviewed Berman regarding the tour, the new album and his approach to art and experiences in life. An article was planned for the following week. In the time between the interview and publication, on Aug 7, Berman sadly took his own life.

How do you first feel when interacting with new people?
My friend Dan and I joke that when we're exiting an airplane and the crew is standing there at the end of the aisle offering a "have a nice stay," "thank you for flying with us" to each disembarking passenger that they look away or get busy doing something in the galley when we reach the exit. I want to be likable, but I feel I give off a bad vibe that makes others not trust me.

To me, the overall vibe on "Purple Mountains" has a more overall honky-tonk feeling and breezier Nashville tone to it than some of the previous records. I remember reading an old interview with you where you said you didn't like the idea of having to sit down and pay attention to every line of a record the first time you heard it. Did you feel like this album was a progression from the MFA-centric lyrics before?
I think that's definitely true. There's less listener manipulation, less surreal furniture, few if any non sequiturs, less ornamentation, little misdirection. It's all part of my desire to be liked and trusted when traveling out of the house.

I've read that you scrapped a handful of projects with different producers during the interval since "Lookout Mountain, Lookout Sea." Do you find a feeling of freedom or growth when you ultimately discard works you may have initially found compelling?
It's hard to do. Being finished is an amazing feeling. Being close to finished is exciting. Scrapping everything is always unpopular with the people I'm working with. Financially, it's a nightmare. It would be so easy to submit that work and so hard to start again. No one believes you when you make your case. More people should do it, though.

The last two Silver Jews records were self-produced, and I understand the recording for the Purple Mountains record went relatively quickly. How did you come to reach out to Woods for production?
Asking an artist who produces themselves and has a sound you think would fit your songs is the best way to go. There are no professional producers who are going to get what I do like another artist does. Mark Nevers could. But he's the only producer I've ever met who likes my "body of work" and thinks I'm a singer.

I've read that Tom Waits likes to make his songs with sad lyrics play upbeat and his songs with positive lyrics play downbeat. I noticed the same juxtaposition with the lyrics and tempo on "All My Happiness Is Gone" — does structuring a song like that, with contradictions make it easier to be more candid?
That's plausible. I like that theory. It seems analogous to writing television with likable anti-heroes.

How has personal finance affected your approach to art?
I'm amazed that I've gotten this far without declaring bankruptcy. The first tour I did to get out of debt. This tour I would do, even if I was debt-free. I look forward to it. But because I am paying interest on 50k of credit card debt, and because Drag City has spent 50k on the record of its own money. If everything goes as planned touring-wise. It looks like we're both going to get back to zero by Xmas.

I've read you feel that younger generations have an easier time finding rhymes, partially thanks to their generations mass exposure to hip-hop. Do you conversely sense any generational advantages you have being Generation X?
You're right about the rhyming. I'm very envious of the average kids ability to rhyme! Generation X has no illusions about the baby boomers. Often you find yourself watching with amazement as a giant population of knavish elders shamelessly rook their children and grandchildren to their financial advantage. And there is a feeling that we were lucky to see all the hippy masks come off in the eighties before the kindly social elders masks were glued on in the '90s.

"Like Like the the the Death" has long been my favorite song of yours. Until recently, I always thought the line was "Do you believe in MDMA?" not "Do you believe in MGM endings?" Do you have any songs that you misheard the lyrics initially and didn't realize it until much later?For pleasant accidents, "Nights That Won't Happen," came out of mishearing "Knight In White Satin" — the term for these errors is mondegreens. "Purple Mountains" itself is a mondegreen. The lyric in America the Beautiful is "for purple mountain majesties." 95% of Americans sing "for purple mountain's majesty." It's our unofficial national anthem and nearly all of us has the second line of the song burned incorrectly into our brains!

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Stage of dreams

Music icon Lenny Kravitz talks latest album, tour and how dreams connect him with his music.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Rock icon Lenny Kravitz has always possessed a timeless charisma both in the recording studio and when performing onstage. The 55-year-old hit the music scene in the '80s, with his debut album "Let Love Rule,"and since then has accomplished feats in the music world of the magnitude most musicians only ever dream — such as producing music for Madonna and Aerosmith, breaking the record for most wins in the Grammys Best Male Rock Vocal Performance category, and being dubbed one of the 100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock, just to name a few. How did Kravitz achieve such a status? With one-of-a-kind music that he handcrafts with care, and ironically appears to him in his own dreams — which rings true for his latest album, "Raise Vibration."

"This album was given to me in dreams," says Kravitz. "I always dream music, but this is the first album that was dreamt completely. That's never happened to me before, where I've dreamt an entire album. But that to me is the best creation, when you are completely removed from it — any ideas, preconceptions or whatever you thought you wanted to do and it's just handed to you. I think that's so beautiful. That is really inspiring to me."

Kravitz has always been intricately involved with all of his music and albums. What sets the icon apart, however, is the fact that he not only writes and sings the songs on his albums, but also plays most of the instruments.

"As far as recording, my process has pretty much been the same from the beginning. I either play all of the instruments on a song, or I play most of the instruments on a song, depending on what that is," says Kravitz. "It's the way that I like to work. To me it's like painting — I have all of my colors in the studio which are my instruments and different kinds of equipment. I'm pretty much in there doing my thing, which is layering instruments and painting, and coloring and sculpting until I've achieved what I heard in the dream."

Kravitz likes to be connected as a performer with himself and his simultaneous existence in life, which makes his catalog highly personal. "It's a matter of putting the right expression out at the right time. I like to reflect where I was in this world at that moment, which is always what I want to do," says Kravitz. "I don't want to work or force an expression out, I want it to come to me. So that's what I did. It's a beautiful experience, it always is. I still have the same excitement that I had when I was in high school making music."

Lenny Kravitz is on tour now. ALL PHOTOS GETTY

The connection is not just for his own sake, however. Kravitz also pours his heart and soul into his music as a labor of love for others. With his "Raise Vibration" tour kicking off this month, Kravitz is still most excited to experience a real human moment with audiences instead of just hearing the cheers and praise he rightfully deserves.

"The reason I do this is for the connection. Making the music in the studio is everything to me, that's where I'm the most comfortable. But there is such a beauty in sharing music that then becomes other people's music. The music is not just mine. The people that support my art and enjoy my music, that music is now part of their life," says Kravitz. "When people tell me my music helped them get through something, that's a real blessing. What I want to make sure happens every night is that we make a connection — all of us, together, where we all are riding the same wave. That's the satisfaction that I get. It's not a 'show,' it's a human experience and it's a human exchange and that's what it's about."

Catch Lenny Kravitz at the Met Philadelphia on Aug. 22 at 8 p.m.

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Pursuant to the lien granted by the Pennsylvania Self-Storage Facility Act, notice is hereby given that the undersigned self-storage units will be sold at a public sale by competitive bidding, to satisfy the lien of the Lessor, with Metro Storage LLC as managing agent for Lessor, for rental and other charges due from the undersigned. The said property has been stored and is located at the respective address below. Units up for auction will be listed for public bidding on-line at www.StorageTreasures.com, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (License AU005857) on behalf of the facilities' management, beginning five days prior to the scheduled auction date and time. The terms of the sale will be by lot to the highest bidder for cash only. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged per unit. All sales are final. Metro Self Storage LLC reserves the right to withdraw any or all units, partial or entire, from the sale at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. All contents must be removed completely from the property within 48 hours or sooner or are deemed abandoned by bidder/buyer. Sale rules and regulations are available at the time of sale.

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DANIEL CASILLAS | METRO WORLD NEWS
PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

With the development of new technologies, traveling with a suitcase has become much easier and safer. This form of luggage now features GPS, Bluetooth connection and is even capable of following the owner. Metro highlights the best options available on the market.

BARMES

Although this suitcase does not connect to your smartphone, it features an intelligent system of compartments and accessories that keep your items organized, while the vertical design ensures they don't mix while you are on the move. **barmesdesign.com/**

PLEVO

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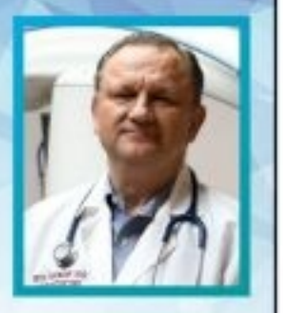
plevo.co/

THE GOAL IS PAIN CONTROL



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NFL betting over/unders: Texans

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

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The Texans are quickly becoming the Cincinnati Bengals of this decade. They'll make the playoffs more times than not, but once they get to the postseason they poop the bed.

We're not focused on Houston's playoff failings today, though, as we're simply looking at their regular season over – under of 8.5 wins at **MetroBet.us/Sugar.**

That 8.5 over – under is standard for the sizable number of teams that are regarded as "middle of the pack." Here's saying the Texans won't hit nine wins this season, however, as they have the fourth most difficult schedule in the league.

Head coach Bill O'Brien has the fifth best odds of being the first NFL coach fired this season, mostly because of the team's rugged set of games to start the year. Here's a look at Houston's first seven games of the 2019 season.

GETTY IMAGES

Week 1 at New Orleans ('Nuff said)

Week 2 vs. Jacksonville (Jags have a ton of 'bounceback year' potential with Nick Foles in the fold)

Week 3 at LA Chargers (Chargers made it to the divisional round last year)

Week 4 vs. Carolina (The past three times Ron Rivera's group has missed the playoffs, they rebounded by making it the next season)

Week 5 vs. Atlanta (Another bounceback year candidate)

Week 6 at Kansas City ('Nuff said)

Week 7 at Indianapolis (Andrew Luck has the Texans' number)

Houston will also play at Baltimore and they have a home date with the Patriots this season. That's tough sledding, for any team.

The schedule - combined with an underwhelming offseason that saw them lose Tyrann Mathieu, Kareem Jackson and Andre Hal – could spell doom … or at least a small regression that would dip them under the 8.5 wins at **MetroBet.us/Sugar.**

The play: $10 on Texans Under 8.5 wins

TWEET OF THE DAY

Adam Schefter
@AdamSchefter

Baker Mayfield to GQ Magazine on Daniel Jones: "I can not believe the Giants took Daniel Jones. Blows my mind … Some people overthink it. That's where people go wrong. They forget you've got to win."

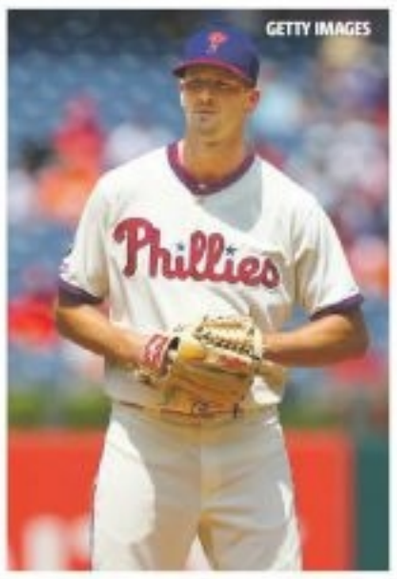
Best Bets

Phillies vs. Red Sox game pick

The offenses of both the Philadelphia Phillies and Boston Red Sox are humming along in August, and two sub-par starters on are the hill at Fenway Park. The pieces are in place for a high-scoring series finale on Wednesday night.

Drew Smyly (2-6, 7.09 ERA) has pitched to a woeful 8.04 ERA in his last three outings for the Phillies. His WHIP in that span is 1.532. Bettors should expect Boston right fielder Mookie Betts (1.036 OPS in 17 at-bats against Smyly) to post a good performance at the plate in this one. The Red Sox were 8-4 in their last 12 games going into Tuesday night, averaging 6.58 runs per contest.

Rick Porcello (11-9, 5.49 ERA) has been shaky all year long, even at home where he owns a 5.09 ERA in 16 starts. Philadelphia right fielder Bryce Harper is batting .333 with four homers and 10 RBI in the first week of Charlie Manuel's tenure as hitting coach. His club's OPS over the last seven days (through Tuesday afternoon) is .822, a substantial improvement over their .742 rating for the year.



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The play: Phillies vs. Red Sox Over

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EX-YANKEE GOSSAGE IS RIGHT: HOME RUN-HAPPY MLB IS 'UNWATCHABLE'

Former New York Yankees reliever Goose Gossage's reputation has taken a bit of a nosedive over the past few years.

The Baseball Hall of Famer has become the game's grumpy grandpa as the 68-year-old continues to throw out his curmudgeonly opinions that scream "get off my lawn" more than anything.

Among them was this gem back in 2016 when he addressed the prevalence of analytics and advanced stats within the game:

"The game is becoming a freaking joke because of the nerds who are running it. I'll tell you what has happened, these guys played Rotisserie baseball at Harvard or wherever the f— they went and they thought they figured the f—ing game out. They don't know s—."

He also called Major League Baseball's rules committee a bunch of "f—ing nerds" because they outlawed base-runners barreling over catchers or taking out the fielder covering second base on a double play.

He's an angry guy. I get it.

I hear that happens when you get older and society changes. Hell, I'm 27 years old and can't stand the whole hipster thing.

On Monday, however, Gossage emerged from his cave and fired off a take that I agreed with.

Is this concerning?

Possibly.

But something rang true deep within my cerebellum when Gossage called baseball "unwatchable."

It's not because of the pace-of-play issue that commissioner Rob Manfred likes to shove down our throats, either.

"I can't watch these games anymore," Gossage said (h/t USA Today). "It's not baseball. It's unwatchable. A lot of strategy of the game, the beauty of the game, it's all gone. It's like a video game now. It's home run derby with their f—ing launch angle every night."

He's right.

Baseball has become a game predicated on the long ball to the point where professional hitting has become something of an urban legend.

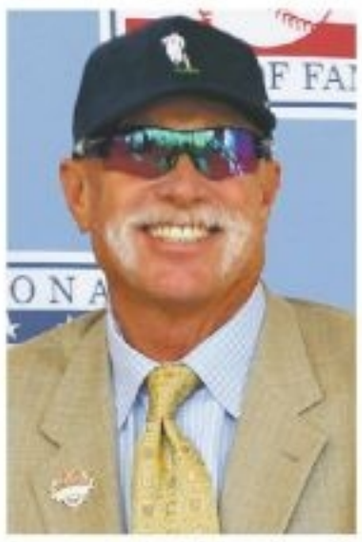
We're treating the likes of the Mets' Jeff McNeil, DJ LeMahieu of the Yankees and Michael Brantley of the Astros as unicorns. These are high-average guys who simply "hit them where they ain't," rather than try to crush each pitch to the next county.

That's the thing, though, guys like McNeil and LeMahieu are flirting with 20-home-run seasons when they've never shown an inkling of true power.

You can thank these new, loaded baseballs for that.

How is that entertaining?

Baseball is becoming a game of two outcomes: the strikeout or the home run.



Goose Gossage isn't happy about all these home runs. GETTY IMAGES

In a normal MLB season, a total of 4,860 games are played amongst the 30 teams, minus the Wild Card Games. This season, before Tuesday's slate of games, there have been 3,732 of those games played so far.

That left 1,128 games to be played before the regular season wraps up.

This season already ranks ninth in MLB history with 5,249 home runs hit. The average of 1.41 round-trippers per game is 0.15 home runs higher than the previous record set in 2017.

While it doesn't seem like a big difference, a 0.15 disparity separates the next 18 highest seasons.

The same goes for strikeouts, which continues to rise at an alarming pace.

Major League Baseball has seen every season since 2008 set a new strikeout record, beginning with 6.77 per game 11 years ago to a whopping 8.73 per game in 2019.

There have been over 32,500 strikeouts this season alone and it's fueled by players tweaking their swings in an attempt to hit home runs rather than put the ball in play.

It's all about exit velocity and launch angle rather than hitting the ball to the right side to move a runner from second to third.

I get it. In today's baseball, teams that hit more home runs are better.

The Dodgers, Astros, Yankees and Twins are all near the top of the standings thanks to the long ball.

It's just not fun, at least for this suddenly-grumpy writer. JOE PANTORNO

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Aries Make plans and get involved in events that interest you. A former acquaintance or certain memory will make you question your motives. Trust in yourself.

Taurus What you need and what you want may not coincide. Look at every aspect of a situation and make decisions based on your physical, emotional and financial capabilities.

Gemini Honesty is the best policy. A lifestyle change is in order. Deal openly with a loved one. Secrets will be revealed by someone you least expect. Build trust.

Cancer Get involved in something meaningful. Whether it's forming a partnership or doing something that makes a difference will leave you feeling good.

Leo If you want something done, do it yourself. The feeling of accomplishment will be extremely satisfying. The only one you truly have to please is yourself.

Virgo A mental, physical or emotional journey will lead to a positive change. Pick up a new skill, socialize with people who share your concerns and do things your way.

Libra Handle the people close to you with care. The words you choose will affect the response you get. Positive change requires understanding and compromise.

Scorpio Follow through on your commitments to avoid backlash. The way you handle your responsibilities will affect the way people treat you. If you care about someone, make it known.

Sagittarius You'll be given choices. Some will be enticing, but will probably have strings attached, and others will be challenging but worthwhile. Be smart, practical and honest with yourself and others.

Capricorn Embrace change. Be the one to make things happen. Do your homework and forge ahead with optimism and a sound plan. A joint venture looks promising. Romance is encouraged.

Aquarius Think matters through before you take action. Emotionally charged impulsiveness will lead to mistakes and regret. Stay focused on what's best for you. Keep the peace.

Pisces Don't ruin a good idea or plan by expanding too quickly. Sticking to a budget and growing a solid foundation are favored. A personal change looks inviting. EUGENIA LAST

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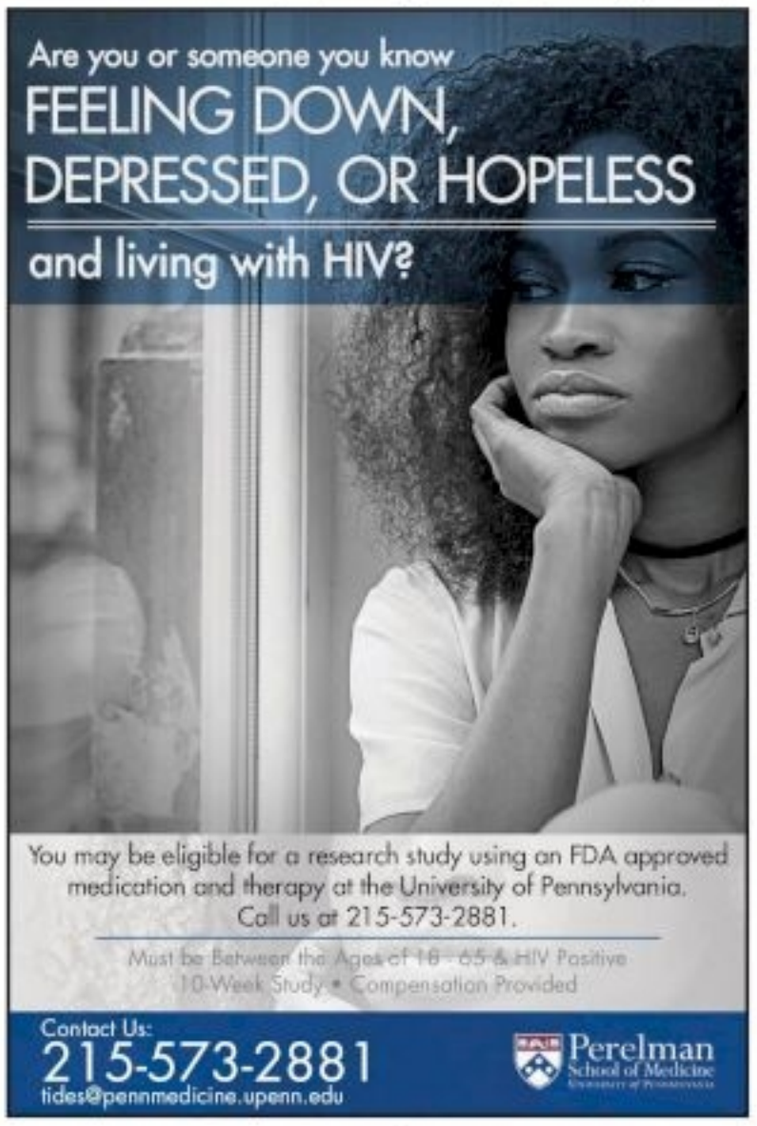
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Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee formerly known as Bankers Trust Company of California, N.A. as Trustee of the Mellon CRA Mortgage Loan Trust 1998-A
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Norma Rentas and Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns, and All Persons, Firms, or Associations Claiming Right, Title or under Providencia Delbrey, Deceased
DEFENDANTS COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CIVIL DIVISION
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO: 181102537

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
TO: Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns, and All Persons, Firms, or Associations Claiming Right, Title or under Providencia Delbrey, Deceased
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Philadelphia, PA 19134
Your house (real estate) at:
3086 1/2 Ruth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134
252567100
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at 9:00AM to enforce the court judgment of $13,577.55 obtained by Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee formerly known as Bankers Trust Company of California, N.A. as Trustee of the Mellon CRA Mortgage Loan Trust 1998-A against you.
NOTICE OF OWNER'S RIGHTS
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PREVENT THIS SHERIFF'S SALE

To prevent this Sheriff's Sale you must take immediate action:

1. The sale will be cancelled if you pay back to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee formerly known as Bankers Trust Company of California, N.A. as Trustee of the Mellon CRA Mortgage Loan Trust 1998-A the amount of the judgment plus costs or the back payments, late charges, costs, and reasonable attorneys fees due. To find out how much you must pay, you may call: (610) 278-6800.
2. You may be able to stop the sale by filing a petition asking the Court to strike or open the judgment, if the judgment was improperly entered. You may also ask the Court to postpone the sale for good cause.
3. You may be able to stop the sale through other legal proceedings.
4. You may need an attorney to assert your rights. The sooner you contact one, the more chance you will have of stopping the sale. (See notice on page two of how to obtain an attorney.)

YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR PROPERTY AND YOU HAVE OTHER RIGHTS EVEN IF THE SHERIFF'S SALE DOES TAKE PLACE.

5. If the Sheriff's Sale is not stopped, your property will be sold to the highest bidder. You may find out the price bid by calling (610) 278-6800.
6. You may be able to petition the Court to set aside the sale if the bid price was grossly inadequate compared to the value of your property.
7. The sale will go through only if the buyer pays the Sheriff the full amount due in the sale. To find out if this has happened you may call 215-686-3535.
8. If the amount due from the buyer is not paid to the Sheriff, you will remain the owner of the property as if the sale never happened.
9. You have a right to remain in the property until the full amount due is paid to the Sheriff and the Sheriff gives a deed to the buyer. At that time, the buyer may bring legal proceedings to evict you.
10. You may be entitled to a share of the money, which was paid for your house. A schedule of distribution of the money bid for your house will be filed by the Sheriff no later than thirty days after the Sheriff Sale. This schedule will state who will be receiving the money. The money will be paid out in accordance with this schedule unless exceptions (reasons why the proposed distribution is wrong) are filed with the Sheriff within ten (10) days after the date of filing of said schedule.
11. You may also have other rights and defenses or ways of getting your house back, if you act immediately after the sale.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE LISTED BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

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CONTAINING in front on the said Ruth Street Fourteen feet and extending of that width in depth Northwestwardly between parallel lines at right angles with the said Ruth Street Fifty feet to a Four feet wide alley.
BEING KNOWN AS: 3086 1/2 Ruth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134
BEING OPA NO. 252567100
BEING the same premises in which Herbert N. Gibson and Dolores M. Gibson, husband and wife, by deed dated 12/16/1994 and recorded 01/18/1995 in and for the City of Philadelphia, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Deed Book 0783, Page 290, granted and conveyed unto Provendencia Delbrey, a single woman
ALSO BEING the same premises in which Provendencia Delbrey, by deed dated 12/16/2000 and recorded 01/29/2001 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, in and for the City of Philadelphia, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in Instrument No. 50205243, granted and conveyed unto Provendencia Delbrey and Norma Rentas. AND THE SAID Provedencia Debrey passed away on or about January 14, 2008, thereby vesting title unto Norma Rentas and any unknown heirs, successors, or assigns of Provedencia Delbrey, deceased.

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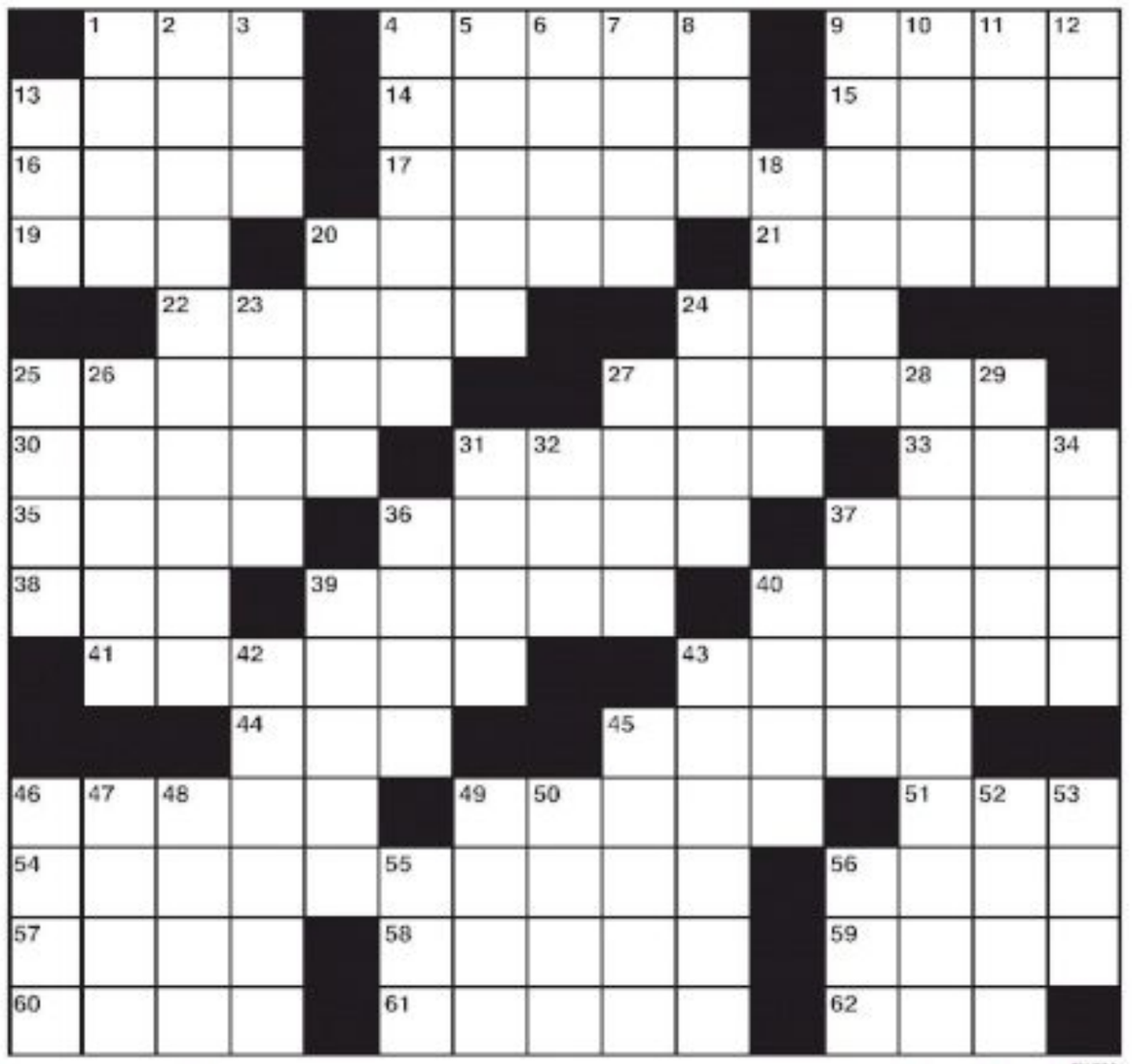

ACROSS
1 Living in the __ of luxury
4 Cross
9 __ A Sketch
13 Helvetica or Geneva
14 __ Peace Prize
15 Alone
16 Pitcher's goals
17 Disastrous
19 As clear __ bell
20 Tiny skin openings
21 Car parker at a restaurant
22 Lab weights
24 Weather forecast
25 Stir up
27 Actor Whitaker
30 Some Scandinavians
31 Tangy
33 Casual farewells
35 Very eager
36 Kitchen utensil
37 Tree coating
38 "Amen!"
39 Say hello to
40 Stocking stuffer
41 Stowed away
43 Knight of song
44 Bekins truck
45 Beverage holder
46 Twelve
49 Natural disaster
51 Light bulb inventor's initials
54 Conquers; defeats
56 Not at all harsh
57 "Let's Make a __"
58 Is a breadwinner
59 Woes
60 "__ the Lonely"; Roy Orbison song
61 Full of soap lather
62 Cunning

DOWN
1 Rawls & Dobbs
2 Foe; adversary
3 WWII craft
4 Money earned
5 Lion's cries
6 Dexterous
7 Receptions
8 Dutch __ disease; tree destroyer
9 Real __; Century 21's business
10 Wrench or hammer
11 Detective's tip
12 Emcee
13 Actor Barrett
18 Bar soap brand
20 Mountain road
23 Felt remorse for
24 Leave at a pawnshop
25 Forever and
26 Talks wildly
27 Clenched hand
28 At a __; not moving
29 Late for school
31 Unburden
32 Boston cream __
34 "The __ the limit!"
36 Songbird
37 Pasture cries
39 Money for college
40 __ in; wearing
42 Excessively
43 Shiny snapshot
45 Long dresses
46 Airhead
47 Microwave, e.g.
48 Passion
49 German wife
50 "The __ of the Rings"; Tolkien novel
52 Friendly nation
53 Ames & Asner
55 "__ Just Not That Into You"; Ben Affleck film
56 Prefix for place or print

BY TCA

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I	L	P	W	R	I	T	I	N	G
K	W	H	I	T	M	A	N	O	F
H	R	I	E	S	F	R	O	S	T
A	H	P	N	P	H	I	V	N	N
R	E	A	U	Y	Y	S	S	I	L
O	M	P	M	O	O	T	N	K	Y
B	E	E	E	N	A	O	I	C	V
G	T	R	G	N	R	T	U	I	Y
P	E	W	Z	Y	L	L	L	D	D
D	R	A	B	P	O	E	T	G	F

Aristotle
Bard
Byron
Dickinson
Frost
Meter
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Stanza
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E	E	H	S
S	E	C	H

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8					6	9		1
		6	4		1			
2			3		9	4	6	
							4	6
6	9		2		4		7	8
4	5							
	8	7	9		2			4
			6		5	8		
1		2	8					9

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I	N	N	S	■	P	E	R	S	E	C	U	T	E	S
P	S	I	■	V	E	N	T	■	■	A	R	E	N	A
■	■	P	A	I	N	S	■	■	A	M	A	■	■	■
O	B	O	I	S	T	■	■	D	W	E	L	L	S	■
U	L	T	R	A	■	M	O	R	A	L	■	I	T	S
S	U	E	S	■	N	O	W	A	Y	■	S	T	E	P
T	E	N	■	S	C	A	N	T	■	W	A	T	E	R
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